

Nemaha County Historical Society
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2019

Following a wonderful soup dinner, President Anita Heiman called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Those in attendance were directors Anita Heiman, Patty Byers, Karen Holthaus, Raymond Thieme, and Cathy Holthaus. Also attending were Marcia Philbrick and Diane Rottinghaus. A quorum of 5 directors was declared.

Previous Minutes:

Secretary Patty Byers presented the minutes of the August 13, 2019 quarterly meeting. Karen moved and Cathy seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Raymond Thieme presented the third quarter financial report. Beginning balance was \$26,735.53. Income for the third quarter was \$7,895.86. Expenses for the third quarter totaled \$5,940.72, leaving an ending balance of \$28,690.67. NCHS investments include a \$10,000 CD from the land sale at the Military Museum, a restricted \$30,000 CD which is designated for matching grant funds, a \$5,000 CD from excess general funds, Mutual Funds donated by Dorothy Pearl Murphy in the amount of \$15,806.40, a savings account for AmazonSmiles in the amount of \$109.13, and a savings account for GoFundMe in the amount of \$100.17. NCHS also receives interest on the \$40,000 Burger Trust Fund. Cathy moved and Patty seconded the motion to accept the financial report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Phil Boeding joined the meeting to explain heating and air conditioning options for the Military Museum and the Sheriff's residence. Phil suggested installing 2 Comfort Aire brand air conditioning units with heat strips for the Sheriff's residence, which will be installed in the hallways both upstairs and downstairs. Each unit will cost \$892 plus any carpentry that may be needed for the installation, as well as the possible cost of a 30 amp 220 circuit for each unit. Phil suggested that fans will be helpful in circulating the air. Regarding the Masonic Temple, Phil suggested that since the cost of heating/air conditioning units would be \$25,694, that NCHS consider installing the units in phases. Phil will walk the property again and work up project quotes for different phases. If NCHS can give him an amount that we can start with, he will let us know how much of the project he can install for that amount of money. All installments will be working toward the end goal of completing the \$25,694 project. That will be more cost effective than installing temporary solutions which will not apply towards the end goal. Cathy or Ray will go with Phil when he walks the Military Museum property.

Reports:

President's Report: Anita reported that she is excited to get heat/air in the museums so she can contact tour companies and offer our museums as a stop on their bus tours. She will contact Elite Tours, and suggested that those of us who go on bus trips with other companies should offer our museums as a possible stop.

Director's Report (Tours): Diane told the group that she had not conducted many tours since the weather turned cold. However, Anita gave a tour of the Sheriff's residence and jail to some temporary workers who are currently working in Seneca, and they would like to come back to tour the Military Museum. They left a generous donation.

Bancroft Preservation: No Report

Membership: No Report

Curator: No Report

Pioneer Press: Marcia will be publishing the next issue of the Pioneer Press shortly. She plans to publicize the need for a new HVAC unit at the Military Museum, as well as remind members that memberships are due by January 1, 2020.

Accessions: Karen reported that accessions have been slower lately so she is finally able to catch up.

Memorials: No Report

Maintenance: Robert submitted a written report by email to all directors, explaining all the changes to the displays that have been made. Also, all the dehumidifiers are now off until spring (unless needed). See attached report.

Lawn Maintenance: Anita reported that Dan Ronnebaum will finish taking care of the lawn this fall.

Grants: Cathy told the group that she has learned that the HTF funds are to stabilize structures rather than to rehabilitate the interiors of historic buildings, so she will resubmit the HTF grant without the portion asking for money to fund the HVAC unit. The STEP grant requesting funds for the HVAC unit was also declined. They told her that they are still interested in helping us, but that we have received several grants previously and they want to spread around their funds. Cathy is now looking into a new grant for small museums which will be due in May.

Old Business:

Community Day at the Park: Patty reported that the day was a success and that it is important to put the face of the Historical Society before the public. She also passed around a financial report from Dave Haverkamp on expenses from this year's event. Patty suggested that NCHS see if Joe Schmelzle would build us a golf hole like the one we used for travel expos. That would eliminate individual members having to donate the ingredients for ice cream floats. No decision was made.

Highway 36 Treasure Hunt: Anita reported that the sale was very successful and thanked those who volunteered to work.

New Business:

QR Code for Displays: Marcia explained QR Codes which are used with individual cell phones, that would provide informative tags for the museums' displays. Everyone was interested and thought that we should proceed with the idea. Marcia cautioned that it will take time to find and create videos to use. Both museums and annexes would be included.

Funding HVAC in Military Museum: After hearing Phil Boeding's presentation earlier, the Board decided that we should proceed with finding the HVAC in phases as Phil suggested, rather than spending money on temporary fixes. That way all money spent will be going towards the final goal of purchasing an HVAC unit. Marcia suggested using the \$10,000 CD from the land sale, plus \$5700 proceeds from the golf tournament, plus \$2833.50 in memorial money which was designated for the Military Museum. That would be \$18,533.50 seed money that NCHS pledges to spend on HVAC. Karen moved and Cathy seconded the motion to spend \$18,533.50 for phase one of acquiring HVAC for the Military Museum. Motion carried unanimously. Marcia then suggested a public fundraising campaign so the public has a chance to contribute. Matt Diehl will meet with Cathy and Ray to view the Military Museum, and he will then publish an article in the paper so the public will be aware of the need for HVAC at the Military Museum.

Heating/Air Conditioning for Sheriff's Residence and Jail: Cathy moved and Karen seconded the motion to purchase 2 air conditioning units with heat strips at a cost of \$892.00 each from Eisenbarth's to heat and cool the Sheriff's residence and jail. The money will come from the general fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Board of Directors Replacements: Mark Winkler, Mark Hermes, and Marcia Philbrick were nominated as board member replacements. Marcia Philbrick accepted the nomination. Patty moved and Ray seconded the motion to elect Marcia Philbrick as a new Board Member. Motion carried unanimously. Anita will contact Mark Winkler and Mark Hermes.

Veteran's Day Open House: It was decided that the Military Museum would be open to the public on Sunday, November 10 from 12:00-2:00pm. Anita, Karen, and Diane volunteered to work from 12:00-1:00pm, and Patty, Cathy, and Ilene volunteered to work from 1:00-2:00pm.

Adjournment: Patty moved and Karen seconded the motion to adjourn. Motions carried unanimously.

Next meeting: Annual Meeting--February 11, 2020